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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

BURMESE PRESS REACTS TO SAW BA U GYI'S DEATH

In its editorial of 16 August, the Hanthawaddy, a conservative Burmese daily of wide circulation, expressed the opinion that Saw Ba U Gyi's death at the hands of government forces on 12 August signified the end of the KNDO insurrection. In the editor's opinion, the end was already apparent when government troops occupied the so-called Kawthulay capital of Toungoo, following which Karen resistance disintegrated into uncoordinated localized actions. The fact that the KNDO leader Saw Ba U Gyi ended his career so ignominiously, without arms, money, and provisions, thought the editor, was sufficient evidence to dispel the initial popular notions that the Karen revolt was actively backed and supported by foreign imperialists.

The 18 August issue of Oway revealed a similar opinion by reprinting, without comment, an article from the London Times, which expressed the belief that with the death of Saw Ba U Gyi, the Burmese government will soon be able to quell the KNDO revolt.

The news of Saw Ba U Gyi's death received full coverage in the Rangoon papers of 14 - 19 August. Both the Hanthawaddy and Oway of 15 August carried full front-page stories and pictures while the pro-Communist Taing Lone Kyaw of the same date, gave the story second billing to its usual front-page North Korean version of the latest war news. The Saw Ba U Gyi article and picture appearing in the Taing Lone Kyaw carried the credit line, "courtesy of the Daily Gazette," new Rangoon English daily.

All three newspapers printed close-ups of the dead man's body. The one appearing in the Taing Lone Kyaw labeled, "Imperialist Puppet KNDO Leader Dead." Oway's heading referred to Saw Ba U Gyi as "the government's greatest foe," while the Hanthawaddy classified him as "one of the government's great enemies." However, aside from the comments of the three newspapers noted, only the Hanthawaddy had reacted editorially as of 19 August.

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